

REMARKS

In response to the Office Communication dated July 25, 2005, the "means for" language is properly supported in the specification as discussed in the Amendment After Final Rejection (AAFR) filed on July 8, 2005. For example, the executive element management means corresponds to the control unit 11 (Fig. 1). The control unit 11 processes a request inputted by the user. Also, for example, the selecting means for selecting a candidate element corresponds to the searching processor 33 of the control unit 11, which searches for an activity matching the request. The structural elements are clearly shown in Fig. 1 and, as discussed in the Remarks of the AAFR, are clearly described in the specification. Accordingly, structural elements are disclosed for performing the associated functions that follow the "means for" language in the claims.

In response to the Examiner's remarks regarding Stuart in the Advisory Action, Stuart has a print manager that manages the printing jobs (col. 5, line 65-col. 6, line 4). However, selecting a particular printer to print the print jobs stored in the data center is not the selection of a candidate executive element, i.e., an activity, but instead, is the selection of a physical device, i.e., the printer to print a particular print job. The fact that certain types of print jobs (tasks) require the use of certain printers (devices) does not change the fact that a physical device (printer) is selected to print a print job. This is, however, not selecting an activity. Further, regardless of whether the system needs to know which printers have been selected to print the job, the system is still performing the operation of managing the print jobs and correlating those print jobs to particular printers. Thus, the system of Stuart selects a particular device to print a particular activity. Accordingly, Stuart only teaches the selection of a device to perform a particular task, and not a selection of an activity as claimed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4, 6-11 and 13-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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